



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

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Pursuit on Route 32 Ends in Apprehension of Wanted Man *Police Chief Reacts to Video of Arrest*

The Howard County Police Department apprehended a wanted man today who fled from police and drove erratically through traffic on Route 32.

The incident began around 12:55 p.m. at Dorsey Run Road and Patuxent Range Road in Jessup when officers attempted to stop Stephen Zombro, 40, who was wanted on an open warrant for theft. The suspect, who was under police surveillance for suspected criminal activity, fled from police and led them on a pursuit in a white Ford pick-up truck onto Route 32.

Zombro drove erratically on the roadway, weaving in and out of traffic and nearly striking a number of vehicles. Police deployed stop-sticks multiple times on Route 32 near Route 29, ultimately flattening three of the vehicle's tires. One police officer sustained minor injuries when Zombro's car struck his police car and the officer was taken to Howard County General Hospital.

After striking the officer's vehicle, Zombro's truck came to a stop and police officers took him into custody. The arrest was videotaped by some media outlets and has prompted an internal police investigation to review police actions during the arrest.

"I have watched the video and I am concerned," said Police Chief William McMahon. "I have directed our internal affairs division to conduct an investigation into some of the actions that took place during the arrest."

"Even though this suspect put innocent lives at risk on the road, I always want my officers to meet the highest possible standards," Chief McMahon said.

Zombro was transported to Howard County General Hospital. A preliminary evaluation has revealed no serious injuries.

Zombro is facing charges of fleeing and eluding police, assaulting law enforcement officers, possession of heroin and crack cocaine and reckless endangerment.

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